Survival of Marine creatures

*195. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Marine creatures is slowly declining due to increasing salinity of water;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sea is not getting its due share of fresh water from its rivers, which helped to maintain the salinity at certain level for the survival of Marine creatures, and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take for the survival of Marine creatures?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No Sir. As per the available information, there is no conclusive evidence regarding decline in number of marine creatures due to change in the level of salinity of water or flow of river water into the sea. Government has taken several steps for the protection of marine organisms like enactment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, establishment of marine National Parks, regulation of Coastal Zone and Biosphere Reserves.

Air pollution in Nagpur

*196. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that air pollution has considerably increased in and around Nagpur city;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to find out average pollution level in other major cities of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to control air pollution level in and around Nagpur?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Ambient air quality monitoring has been carried out in some of the major cities of Maharashtra,

including Mumbai, Pune, Solapur, Nagpur, Nasik, Thane and Chandrapur under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network (NAAQM) established in the country. The monitoring results for Nagpur indicate that levels of Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) were within the stipulated norms whereas the levels of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) are slightly on higher side.

(d) The steps taken to control air pollution in and around Nagpur include the following:

(i) Introduction of unleaded petrol;

(ii) Monitoring of ambient air quality in and around Nagpur city;

(iii) Road Transport Office of Nagpur has provided one mobile van for checking vehicular pollution.

(iv) Private Vehicular checking centres have been established and authorized to issue Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates to vehicles.

(v) Special drives are taken up for checking of vehicles for pollution control.

Hunger free India

*197. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn on World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organisation Research Foundation's planned meeting on road map for hunger free India by 2007; and

(b) the issues that are likely to be taken up in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) A 'Consultation' on "Towards Hunger-Free India - countdown from 2007" was jointly organized by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Food Programme on 4th and 5th April, 2003.